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ing close to the Linden. On calling at Professor Braun's I learned that he was in Brahdenburg, happily away from the heat and crowd. Never before have I so suffered with the heat, which for six days has been intense; so great that walking was almost impossible, and the dust made the riding almost insufferable. The crowd has been growing greater and greater, but culminated last night when there was a serenade by seven hundred musicians in front of the palace. I think I should enjoy Berlin in winter, but now I am tired of the heat and dust, and emperors; and shall leave at once for Cologne on my way to Strasburg.

REVIEWS AND BOOK NOTICES.

NEW GERMAN BOTANICAL MANUALS.*—The two botanical text-books named below have now superseded all others in Germany. The first, uniform with a zoology by the same author, is admirably adapted for schools and colleges, being compact, clearly and concisely written, and copiously illustrated with woodcuts. All the subjects of any general botanical interest are touched upon, and, for this reason, it is an excellent book for amateurs who wish to keep up to the present state of the science without taking the time and trouble necessary for learning, practically, microscopic and systematic details. The greatest advance in botany, recently, has been made in the departments of anatomy and lower cryptogams where, unfortunately, more knowledge of the microscope is necessary than is possessed by the majority of botanical readers. In the book of Thorné, the frequent woodcuts take the place of microscopic work as far as such a thing is possible. On the whole, this is the best elementary botanical text-book which has yet been published in Germany.

The second work, although called a text-book, partakes much more of the character of an encyclopædia. In consequence partly of the high reputation of the writer as a vegetable physiologist, the book has had an almost unprecedented sale, the third edition being already nearly exhausted and a separate edition of the second part, relating to vegetable physiology, having just made its

* Lehrbuch der Botanik von Dr. Otto Wilhelm Thorné 2te auflage 1872. Lehrbuch der Botanik von Prof. Julius Sachs. 3te auflage 1873.

appearance. The proportion of those who buy the book and actually read it, however, is decidedly smaller than in the case of the first mentioned book. It is a work which gives an excellent summary of the present state of botany as it exists in Germany, particularly, of the results of recent studies in the cryptogams, and, as such, is a valuable book of reference for the special student and professor. It is much too intricate and full of microscopic details to be easily intelligible to the general reader. It is by no means the case, as some suppose, that the average botanical student in Germany is in a condition to profit by Sachs' Lehrbuch. In many places, without previous study of the lower forms of vegetable life, the book is quite incomprehensible. The text and woodcuts are excellent.—W. G. F.

THE MOLLUSKS OF WESTERN NORTH AMERICA.*—Under this title Dr. Carpenter reprints the reports made by him to the British Association, with other papers, which will make the volume of much value to malacologists.

BOTANY.

WERE THE FRUITS MADE FOR MAN, OR DID MAN MAKE THE FRUITS?—These need not be taken as mutually exclusive propositions; for as "God helps those who help themselves," and man's work in this respect is mainly, if not wholly, in directing the course or tendency of Nature, so there is a just sense in which we may say "the art itself is Nature," by which the greatest triumphs of horticultural skill have been accomplished. Moreover I am not one of those naturalists who would have you believe that nothing which comes by degrees, and in the course of nature, is to be attributed to Divine power.

The answer I should give to the question, as we thus put it, is:

1. Some fruits were given to man as they are, and he has only gathered and consumed them. But these are all minor fruits, and such as have only lately come within the reach of civilized man, or are not thought worth his trouble. Huckleberries and cranberries, persimmons and papaws are examples, taken from this country. Whether even such fruits have or have not been under a course of improvement, irrespective of man, is another question.

* Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, 252. Washington, Dec., 1872, 8 vo. pp. 325, 121.